

1D3 Linda Richards 1874-1877

1D3-17 Biographical Data

Memorial Service May 16, 1930 and address prepared by Sally Johnson

"America's First Trained Nurse" 1841-1930, by Isabella W. Swan -

Commemoration of the Centennial anniversary of her birth

Memorial Service July 27, 1941 at Trinity Church

Program, New England Hospital 1941

Poem, "Her Light Shines On"

News article from 1922

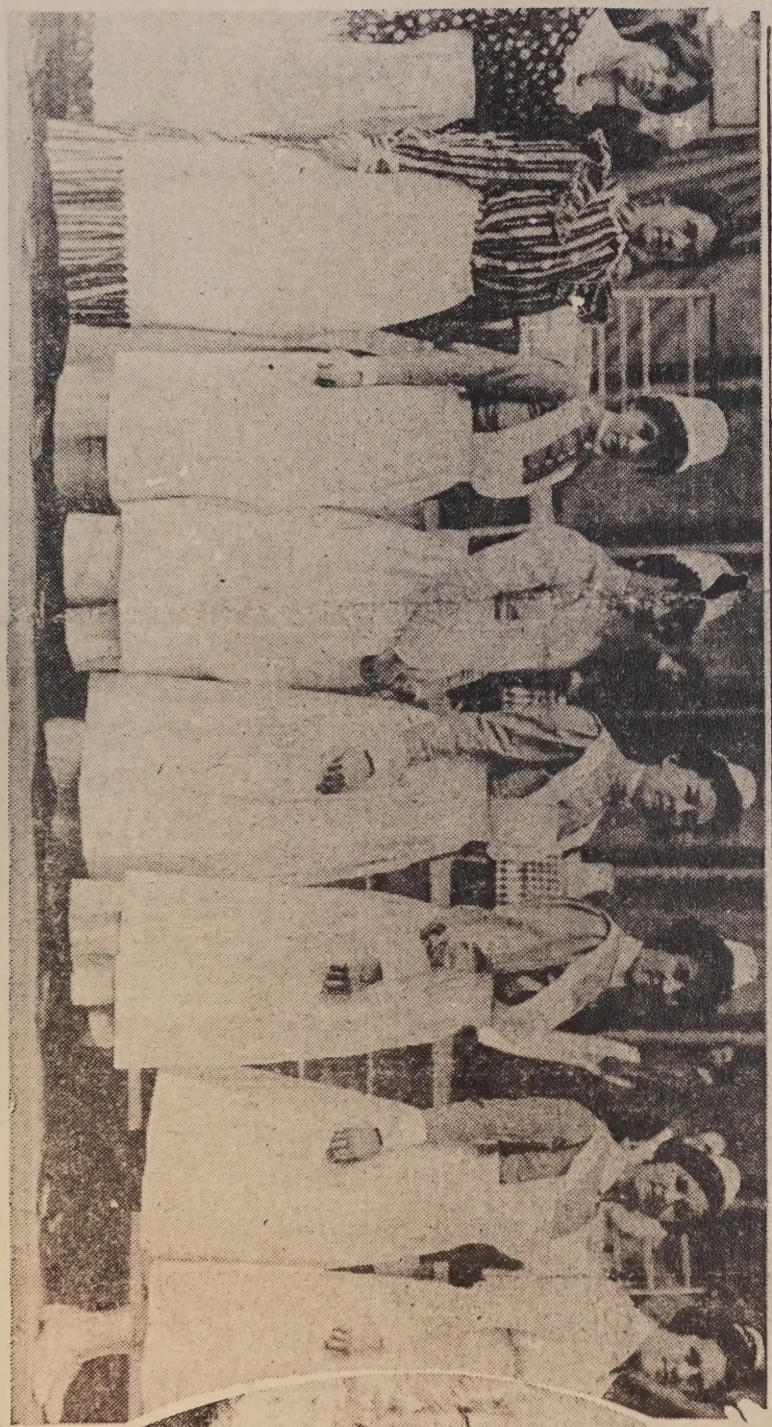
(See also Trevelwell Library Saraphorn (Grace W. Myers) p. 58



Linda Richards

RICHARDS, Linda

1-80:173



2-8

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Linda Richards

at 50th anniversary of MGH
Training School, 1923

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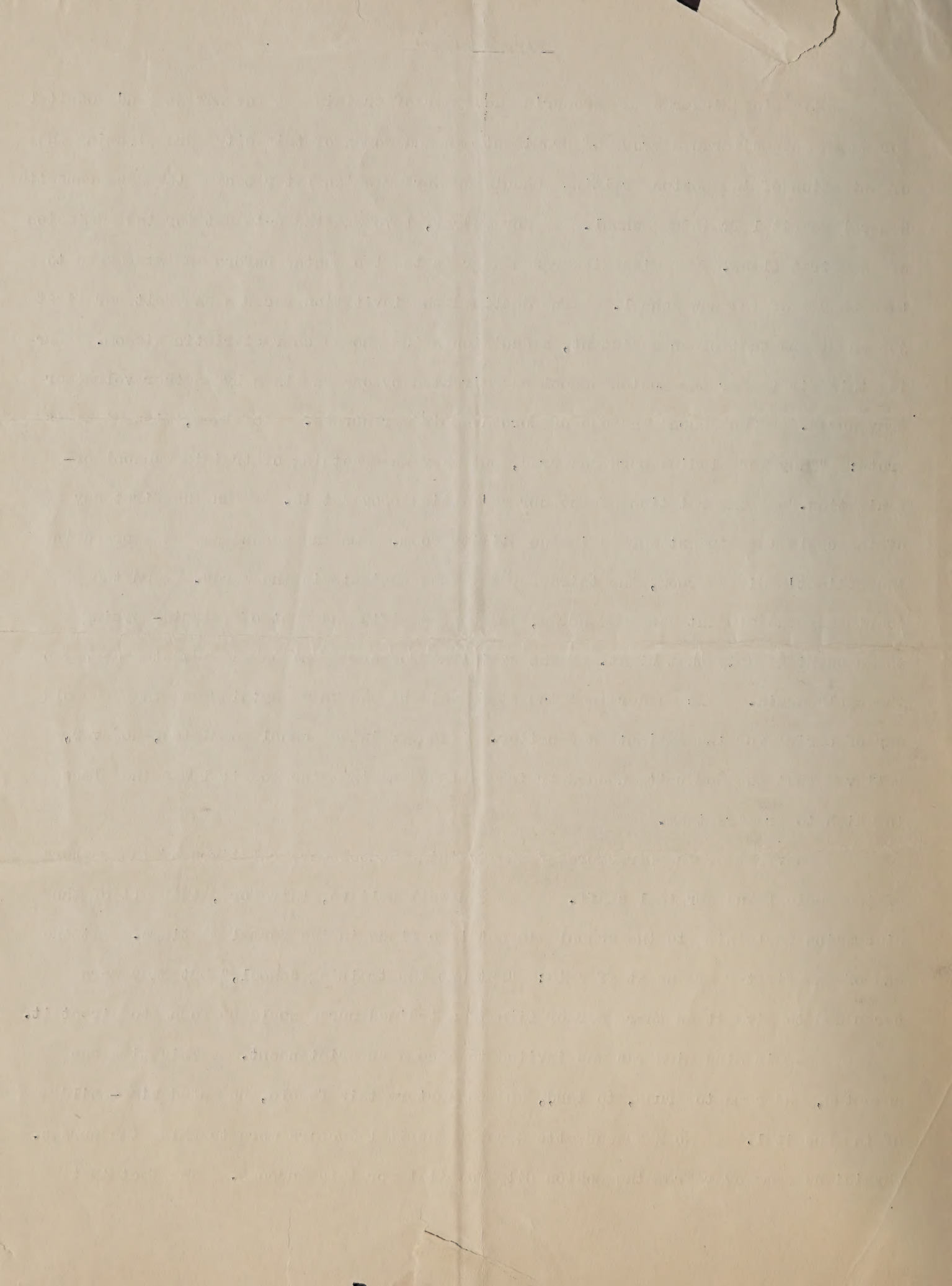
MISS RICHARDS

Preferred
by S. J. for
the nursing
service and
donch
church.

While Miss Richards was procuring her year of training at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, a group of prominent men and women of this city were planning the organization of the Boston Training School for Nurses which later became the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School. November 1, 1873 was the date set for the admission of the first class. Miss Richards had graduated two months before and was asked to take charge of the new school. She declined the invitation because she felt her first job should be that of an assistant, a decision which showed characteristic wisdom. During this first year the Boston School was directed by one and then by another volunteer army nurse. The second was one of Dorothea Dix's war nurses. Of them, Miss Richards wrote: "They were ladies born and bred, but they knew nothing of training school organization." The rotation of the nurses' duties proved this. On the first day of the cycle the student worked in the utility room. On the second day she worked in the patient's dining room, the third day with the patients in the wards. On the fourth day the student was head nurse, and on the fifth she went off at mid-morning to go on night duty that night. The sixth was for sleep and on the seventh she began the cycle again. No wonder that the staff said "no one knew anything" and that the old way of caring for the patients was better. The Training School Committee, however, believed that the community needed trained nurses and that the hospital was the place in which to prepare them.

Several of the Directors of the Training School were relatives of the members of the medical and surgical staff. We can well believe, therefore, that all of the discussion pertaining to the school did not take place in the formal meetings. At the end of the first year the staff said: "Put out the training school," but they were persuaded to give it another year of life ^{provided} a trained nurse could be found to direct it.

Again Miss Richards was invited to become superintendent. This time she accepted, and came to prune, to tend, and to nurture this feeble, unwanted step-child of the hospital. No Massachusetts General Hospital doctors were teaching the nurses. Physicians came over from the Boston City Hospital for this purpose. The fact that



only three of the first twelve students admitted graduated suggests much. The difficulty could not have been their youth for their average age upon admission was thirty-two. ^{Par} Miss Richards came to the school, ^{she} possessing dignity, real charm, a love of service, and skill in nursing. Her major job was to prove to the staff that trained nurses were better than untrained nurses. One means she sometimes used to demonstrate this was to care for the sickest patients herself. Gradually the staff began to realize the value of trained nurses. They began to refer to "our school" with pride. One member took the nurses on hospital rounds which was the beginning of bedside clinics, another taught them in the operating room. The Boston City Hospital men were soon no longer needed.

A building was remodelled for a nurses home. With one exception all wards were given over to the care of the school. (Only two were under ^{Miss Richard's} ~~her~~ direction in the beginning.) The rudiments of a school uniform appeared, experience was supplemented by affiliation with the Boston Lying-In Hospital and with the Eye and Ear Infirmary. An affiliation with McLean was recommended. The number of students grew to fifty. The records tell of sickness, fatigue and "lame nurses," but the records also state that "watchers" were brought in from the neighborhood to relieve the nurses.

Miss Richards should be referred to as "America's First Trained Nurse" not only because her diploma bears the earliest date, but also because she was first professionally.

Fifty-six years ago, she, with only one year of training, with only one year of graduate experience, and combating tremendous opposition, created a school which was twenty-five years ahead of its time.

Of this school she wrote: "I spent two and one-half happy years at the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School, and saw many important changes take place. There is a very warm spot in my heart for this, my first school..... Some of my nurses I am justly proud of," and with characteristic modesty adds: "though I am sure the ability of the women and not my training is responsible for the good work they have done."

repat prepared us for a stroll over the place and the ride home. The Boys' Camp has a wonderful swimming pool. Some of the nurses had brought their bathing suits and enjoyed their dip very much. We came home through Jamaica Plain and were back at Copley Square at 9.30, having enjoyed every minute of the time. An auto was waiting at Foxboro to greet us, a party had come over from Rowley. It was a lovely day and a lovely place—the undergrowth would have delighted a botanist.

On June 11, we had our Annual at Trinity Church—the chaplain of the Lynn Branch, the Rev. John Scott, preached a fine helpful sermon. The boy soprano from Lynn sang in the church; and afterwards at the social where his mother played his accompaniment. There were a number received into the Guild. The social which followed the church services was enjoyed by the goodly number present. Refreshments were served as usual.

The various County Associations of the M. S. N. A. held or tried to hold meetings through June to straighten out membership and boundary lines so as to conform with the procedure of other states.

The Social Service convention which was held in Boston through the week June 8-14 awakened much interest. Every subject, mental, moral and physical was discussed. The Hotel Statler was the headquarters. This conference opened with a mass meeting at the Boston Gardens and closed with a dinner and reception at the Statler.

Boston seems to be a favorite place for conventions and conferences. Two or three have been current with the Social Service conference. All these seem to fall in with the Tercentenary Celebration.

Dr. Abraham Rudy has written a Practical Handbook for Diabetic Patients. He is on the Boston City Hospital staff. The book is on sale at M. Barrows Company, Huntington Chambers. The medical journals at home and abroad speak very favorably of this book.

Dr. Everett O'Neil who lectured to our Alumnae in 1928-1929, on "The Injection Treatment for Varicose Veins," has a reprint of an article on the same subject in circulation. This article was in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, May 9, 1929.

Mr. V. Everett Marcy, of Ossining, New York, left Teachers' College, Columbia University, the generous gift of \$500,000. Mr. Marcy died in April, 1930.

A surgical building costing \$750,000 was dedicated April 14th, at the Faulkner Hospital, Jamaica Plain.

Governor Allen and Mayor Curley spoke at the exercises. A reception was given to prominent medical and surgical men and to the interested public.

Saint Radegonde's Guild held a whist party in April which was very successful. The Annual Retreat for the Guild members was held in the Chapel at Boston College High School, James Street, Boston, May 7, 8, 9, at 8.15 P. M. The Rev. Cornelius A. Murphy, S. J., conducted the Retreat. The closing exercises of the Retreat were held on Sunday, May 11, a Memorial Mass followed by Communion Breakfast and Annual Meeting. Mary Alice McMahon, R. N., is Secretary-Treasurer.

The Guild of Saint Barnabas has held regular meetings since the April QUARTERLY was issued. We have had some memorable addresses from clergymen of other churches. The Bee accomplished all of, and more than its allotted work. We miss Mrs. Fenno at our Bee meetings. We look forward to resuming our pleasant gatherings when November comes round again.

AMERICA'S FIRST TRAINED NURSE PASSES AWAY

Miss Linda A. J. Richards, who had the distinction of being the first trained nurse in America, died at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, Boston, on the 16th of April in her 89th year.

Born in Pottsdam, New York, July 27, 1841, Miss Richards spent most of her girlhood days in Vermont and always spoke of herself as a Vermont woman. From her early school days Miss Richards wanted to engage in nursing and when the first nurses school in America was established in the New England Hospital for Women and Children in September, 1872, she was the first applicant for admission thereto. She was then living in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Immediately following her graduation Miss Richards was employed as Superintendent of night nurses at the Bellevue Hospital Training School for Nurses in New York. Later she visited the English and French hospitals for observation and instruction and was offered a position in France, but declined it. In England, she was the guest of Miss Florence Nightingale and was honored by her close friendship. Subsequently she served as Superintendent at the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School and at the Boston City Hospital Training School.

In response to the call for a trained nurse in 1885 to organize and superintend a nurses school in Kyoto, Japan, she volunteered her services and, resigning the Superintendency of the Boston City Hospital Training School, went out under the auspices of the American Board of Missions, Boston. This was the first organized school for nurses in Japan and the first founded under Christian auspices in any mission field. So successful did it prove that nurses schools were rapidly established with mission hospitals in other lands. A new useful employment for women in these countries was thus given the greatest, perhaps, of the many monuments to the memory of this remarkable woman. Following her service in Japan and the recovery of her health she was employed as superintendent of nurses in hospitals at Philadelphia, Roxbury, Brooklyn, Kalamazoo, Hartford and Worcester. Some of these schools she entirely reorganized, for which work she possessed remarkable ability.

Though difficult, during a long period, for her to move about, owing to painful physical infirmities, she spoke at the graduation exercises of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, at the Mosley Memorial Building in Boston, January 1, 1925, and also at the Worcester City Hospital Training School. She was scheduled to speak at the dedication of the Frances E. Willard Homestead at Northboro on March 31, 1925, but her sudden illness cancelled this on the eve of the event. From this illness she never recovered. She was tenderly cared for at the Northboro Home and was later removed to the New England Hospital for Women and Children where she spent the last 4 weeks of her eventful life, in the institution she so dearly loved and where she was so highly honored.

She was known as the "Mother" of American nurses and was loved by those who knew her personally

—*By One of Our Graduates.*

The chapel at Forest Hills where the funeral services for Miss Richards were held was crowded. The B. C. H. was well represented by doctors and nurses, many were there from the New England Hospital for Women and Children. Among the doctors were some who had been house officers at the B. C. H. when Miss Richards had charge. Mr. Bliss of the Old South Church conducted the services.

The Memorial Services held in the Old South on May 16th were well attended. Nurses came from far and near—nurses who had been her pupils in various hospitals, those who had worked under her as head nurses, those who had associated with her in any way, some who had never seen her, but who knew her reputation and wanted to do her honor. The speakers covered her long life of work for others. Mr. Bliss read a most striking passage from the Apocrypha; the first 8 verses of Chapter IV of the Wisdom of Solomon. From this passage come the words of that wonderful anthem "Souls of the Righteous in the Hands of God." Anyone wishing to read the verses will find the Apocrypha at the Methodist Book Rooms on Boylston Street—three prices: 75c, 85c and \$3.00.

—*The Editor.*

Memorial Service for Linda Richards

(America's First Trained Nurse)

1841 - 1930

Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston

Friday, May 16, 1930, 8.15 p. m.



LINDA RICHARDS

Graduated 1873, Training School New England Hospital for Women and Children.

Night Superintendent at Bellevue Hospital, 1873-74

Superintendent of Training School Massachusetts General Hospital, 1874-77.

Superintendent of Training School Boston City Hospital, 1879-85.

Organized first training school for nurses in Japan. 1885-90.

Superintendent New England Hospital for Women and Children, 1893-94.

Superintendent of Training Schools in Mental Hospitals in Taunton, Worcester, and Kalamazoo, 1904-11.

Honorary Member

Massachusetts State Nurses' Association, 1910-1930

ORDER OF SERVICE

BERTHA W. ALLEN, R. N., *Presiding*

Doxology

Scripture Reading and Prayer.....*Rev. Daniel Bliss*Miss Richards' life in the 70's.....*Dr. Alfred Worcester*Quartette: Deus Misereatur.....*Parker*

MISS RICHARDS

As Student and Graduate.....*Bernice W. Billings*
*New England Hospital for Women and Children*As Superintendent of Nurses.....*Sally Johnson*
*Massachusetts General Hospital*As Superintendent of Nurses.....*Mary M. Riddle*
*Boston City Hospital*Quartette: I Hear Thy Voice.....*Lang*Miss Richards' Contribution to Nursing.....*Annie W. Goodrich*Hymn: The Son of God Goes Forth to War.....*No. 427*Benediction*Rev. Daniel Bliss*

Music by the Organist and Quartette of the Old South Church

SCIENCE ITEMS

ANNA L. GIBSON, R. N.

Vitamins

Two new vitamins have recently been discovered by English scientists. Katherine Hope Coward and her colleagues at the laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society, London, have published a paper describing a new vitamin which has somehow escaped notice before. Scientists do not yet know whether this new factor is necessary for the human race, but Miss Coward's experiments have proved that it is necessary for the growth of the experimental rat. No name has yet been given to this vitamin. It has been found in fresh milk, lettuce, grass, oxmuscle, liver and wheat embryo. The other new vitamin has recently been described by Vera Reader, of the biochemical department, Oxford University. The original Vitamin B was said to prevent beriberi. Scientists found later that Vitamin B really consisted of at least two separate factors, and they decided to call them B1 and B2. Miss Reader now has found that in the Vitamin B of yeast there is a third growth factor which is chemically distinct from either of the other two. She suggested the name B3 for this new factor. Like B2, it can be destroyed by heat. The pellagra-preventing factor in foodstuffs, known as P-P, was also once thought to be part of Vitamin B.

—*Science*, 1929.

Diet for the Epileptic

Epileptic attacks may, to a certain extent, be controlled by a diet rich in fats such as cream, butter, mayonnaise, bacon and oil combined with a reduced quantity of sugars and starchy foods. Reporting on experiments carried on at the Chicago State Hospital, Dr. A. M. P. Saunders stated that of a group of eighty women epileptics, thirty-two were much benefited by the diet. The rest of the patients were those who had some other physical disease or were mental defectives and did not respond. With this diet the fat is only incompletely broken up in the absence of carbohydrates and a large amount of acid is formed during the digestion. The diet must be estimated and adjusted for each individual case and must be under medical supervision during the treatment, since some patients require only a slight change from the normal diet, and others a much more restricted diet.

—*Science*, 1929.

The Standardization of Ergot

A new chemical method of standardizing a drug widely used in childbirth may be the means of saving countless lives of mothers and babies. The drug is ergot. The new method of standardizing it, which is a chemical, colorimetric method, was devised by Dr. M. I. Smith, of the U. S. Hygienic Laboratory, who reported it at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The method requires much less experience, less time, less trouble, and is more accurate than the physiological method which is given as the standard by the present U. S. Pharmacopoeia which is the legal standard for drugs and medicines.

POSITIONS HELD AT M.G.H.

RICHARDS, Linda (First trained nurse in America, died April 16, 1930 - Memorial service held.)

School of Nursing, graduated from Training School, N.E. Hospital for Women and Children (From her folder) Date - First school was established in 1872, she was the first applicant for admission thereto.

Experience before M.G.H. position:

Night Superintendent at Bellevue Hospital, 1873-74 (From her folder obituary) Program of Memorial Service.

Superintendent at the Boston City Hospital Training School (From her folder obituary) Program of Memorial service.

Organizations:

Membership - Honorary Member in Mass. State Nurses' Association, 1910-1930, (From Memorial Service program.)

Position held at M.G.H.

Superintendent of Training School M.G.H., Nov. 1874- April or May 1877. (From Memorial service program)

Superintendent of Training School Boston City Hospital, 1879-1885 - From Memorial Service Program

Organized first training school for nurses in Japan, 1885-90. " "

Superintendent N.E. Hospital for Women and Children, 1893-94. " "

Superintendent of Training School in Mental Hospitals in Taunton, Worcester and Kalamazoo, 1904-11. "

Gave graduation address Jan. 7, 1925 MGHTSN on 50th anniversary (last Nov.) of taking charge of this school. 84 years old.

Died 1930. See Memorial Service leaflet in files, age 84. Born 1841, July 27.

Richards, Linda

Source: 1873-1923 Fiftieth Anniversary, Bellevue Training School for Nurses.

No author indicated
No date of publication
Paging not indicated.

Sister Helen returned to England in 1876. Miss Eliza Perkins, "a NE gentlewoman" followed her 1876-1888.

P? "When a night Supervisor was added to the staff, the hours were reduced (from 4am to 10pm and night watching p.r.n.) and a full night's rest assured."

Miss Linda Richards, Bellevue's first night Supervisor.

See L.R's Reminiscences.

Richards, Linda

Source: Riddle, Mary M., R.N.
Boston City Hospital Training School for Nurses
Historical Sketch
Boston, 1928.

P.13 Dr. Cowles, repeated efforts, finally gained permission late in 1877, for the establishment of a training school for nurses, and Miss Linda Richards, the first graduate from a training school in America, was appointed to organize and establish the school. On Jan. 1, 1878, she took up her duties BCHTS for N the 5th to be established in USA . School opened May, 1878.

P.20 "First employed nurse to join Nursing school entered on June 19, 1878, one day earlier than anyone else in the class".

Linda Richards was Superintendent of Nurses and Matron of Hospital. She gave most of the instruction by class recitation; lectures by medical and surgical staff. Early in its 2nd year, school lost services of Linda Richards, withdrew due to ill health/overwork. Left July 1879. In September 1882 to October 1885 she returned to Boston City Hospital, then to Japan.

Miss Linda Richards - by one of her pupils, American Journal of Nursing Vol.#1 pp.12.

The first woman to enter a training school in the U.S. still active in Nursing after 28 years. Born in New York State, reared and educated in Vermont.

"The N.E. Hospital is rarely accredited as being among the first to establish training schools. Such in fact, is the truth, although the hospital at the time was small and the period of training only one year."

Linda Richards entered September 1, 1872, received her diploma one year later and after one month went to Bellevue, New York, as night superintendent, the first American trained woman to hold a hospital position.

November 1, 1874 she took charge of the Boston Training School connected with M.G.H. (See M.G.H. History of TS)

April 16, 1877, she sailed for England for extended hospital experience at St. Thomas and King's College Hospitals, London at Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, visiting many hospitals in London and Paris.

Jan. 1, 1878, in cooperation with Dr. E. Cowles, she organized the Training School of the Boston City Hospital, Dec. 18885, she was sent by the American Board of Missions to organize a school for the training of native women nurses in Tokio Japan, returning to America in March, 1891.

For 8 months she was in charge of "visiting nurse" work of Philadelphia and later organized school of the Methodist Hospital, Philadelphia, resigned due to ill health.

Nov. 1895 took charge of the Hartford Hospital (Conn.) for 2 years.

One year followed (1898) at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.

"For past year (? 1901) her work has been in connection with the Insane Hospital Taunton, Mass. She had long seen the need for intelligent trained women in this field.

Retiring, modest, always ready to help others, never pushes herself into public notice, great organizer and reformer, a woman in the truest sense.

Memorial Service

for

Linda Richards

(America's First Trained Nurse)

1841-1930



Old South Church
Copley Square, Boston

Friday, May 16, 1930

8.15 p. m.



Linda Richards
America's First Trained Nurse

Graduated 1873, Training School New England Hospital for Women and Children.

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Order of Service

BERTHA W. ALLEN. R. N., *Presiding*

Doxology

Scripture Reading and Prayer..... *Rev. Daniel Bliss*

Miss Richards' life in the 70's..... *Dr. Alfred Worcester*

Quartette Deus Misereatur..... *Parker*

MISS RICHARDS

As Student and Graduate..... *Bernice W. Billings*
New England Hospital for Women and Children

As Superintendent of Nurses..... *Sally Johnson*
Massachusetts General Hospital

As Superintendent of Nurses..... *Mary M. Riddle*
Boston City Hospital

Quartette I Hear Thy Voice..... *Lang*

Miss Richards' Contribution to Nursing..... *Annie W. Goodrich*

Hymn The Son of God Goes Forth To War *No. 427*

Benediction..... *Rev. Daniel Bliss*

Music by the Organist and Quartette of the Old South Church

Trinity Church

In the City of Boston

The Rev. Oliver J. Hart, D. D., Rector

The Linda Richards Memorial Service

Sunday Evening, July 27, 1941

7.30 o'clock

ORDER OF SERVICE

(The Order of Evening Prayer will be found on Page 21 of the Book of Common Prayer.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 85, "The Son of God Goes Forth to War"

(Congregation will stand for singing of all hymns)

OPENING SENTENCES

Page 21

GENERAL CONFESSION

Page 23

(to be said by the whole congregation with the minister, all kneeling)

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.

People: *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

People: *As it was in the beginning, now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Minister: Praise ye the Lord.

People: *The Lord's Name be praised.*

PSALM: 84

Page 445

LESSON: Hebrews 11:1 - 12:2

NUNC DIMITTIS

Page 28

(Congregation will rise and sing with the choir)

CREED AND PRAYERS

Pages 29-34

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING: Hymn 445, "O God, our Help in Ages Past"

(The Nurses' Alumnae Association of the New England Hospital for Women and Children have designated the offering for The Church Home Society.)

DOXOLOGY

HYMN: 494, "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

SERMON: "Things Yet to Come"

THE REV. JOHN U. HARRIS,
Assistant Minister, Trinity Church

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN: 29, "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended"

Duplicate

removed

180: 103-17

